



State Representative T.R. Rowe

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It continues to be an honor and a pleasure to represent Trumbull in the state legislature.

This mailing covers some of the highlights of the session. More information is always available by contacting my office at 1-800-842-1423 or clicking onto the internet at /www.cga.ct.gov.

If I can assist you on any state-related problem or concern, or if you have a comment or question about state legislation, please do not hesitate to call.

As the 2007 session approaches, you may want to forward any suggestions for new state laws that you believe should be proposed.

Again, thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you in Connecticut's state legislature.

Sincerely,



Rep. Rowe discusses legislation with colleagues on the House floor during a recent legislative session.

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State Representative
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Proudly Serving the 123rd District
Trumbull ★ Connecticut



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www.housegop.ct.gov



2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative

T.R. ROWE

Proudly Serving the 123rd District

Trumbull ★ Connecticut



Rep. Rowe speaks on the floor of the House during a legislative debate.

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

As in past years, I am working hard for taxpayers, children, families and senior citizens. I am happy to report that the legislature agreed to several initiatives to hold down spending, protect the environment, help families save for college education, improve transportation and stimulate job growth. If you would like further information, please visit our website at www.housegop.ct.gov. Following are some of the highlights:

Voting for Job Creation

Connecticut continues to lag the nation in new jobs and economic growth. I fought for legislation to roll back some of the high taxes that make Connecticut uncompetitive with other states. The property tax on manufacturing equipment will be phased out, the corporate tax surcharge that was reimposed last year will be eliminated, and tax credits will encourage companies to hire employees and produce movies in Connecticut.

New legislation will encourage innovation through faculty recruitment and an entrepreneurial center at UConn, provide funds for small business incubators, and create programs to finance early stage ventures and to match federal research assistance. The state will establish pilot math and science grant programs and student loan repayment grants for engineering and doctoral students. Several initiatives will promote research in the growing field of nanotechnology, a branch of engineering that deals with the design and manufacture of extremely small electronic circuits and mechanical devices built at the molecular level of matter.

For the Environment

The state will establish a greenhouse gas labeling program for new motor vehicles starting with 2009 models. New legislation will require public notification about contaminated sites and private drinking water wells.

For Transportation

The legislature authorized a 10-year, \$2.3-billion transportation package in addition to last year's \$1.3-billion plan that included 342 new cars for the Metro-North commuter rail line. Future authorized projects include more commuter rail service, stations and parking facilities and removal of I-95 bottlenecks.

For Property Owners

The legislature created an Ombudsman for Property Rights to help property owners with eminent domain issues and disputes.

For Seniors/Veterans/Healthcare

A new law allows towns and cities to freeze property taxes for homes owned by people age 70 or older. Homemaker-companion agencies must register with the Department of Consumer Protection and employees must undergo background checks. Legislation will protect jobs and finances of National Guard members who are called up for state service such as natural disasters. The legislature updated Connecticut law on end of life decisions, hospital acquired infections and umbilical cord blood banking.

For Children, Education

I continued the fight for more state aid for local public schools under the state's Education Cost Sharing formula. Progress continues to be elusive in this area. Some state school aid increases were approved, but at less than full funding. On a brighter note, families can now take a state income tax deduction when they save up to \$10,000 for a child's education in the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET). With my support, the legislature approved \$875 million in local school construction reimbursements.

State Budget

I supported adjustments to the state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. It provided \$245.7 million for the underfunded Teachers' Retirement System, \$85.5 million to pay off debt from the 2003 fiscal crisis, \$33 million in property tax relief to towns and \$189 million saved in the state Rainy Day Fund for future economic downturns. It also included an additional \$250,000 for the town of Trumbull.

Grants to towns increase by \$115.5 million to \$2.557 billion for Fiscal Year 2007. Aid for special education students goes up by \$35 million. A \$1-million program to assist adults with autism also has been authorized.

Gov. Rell proposed to eliminate the annual car tax, which was not enacted; but the property tax credit was raised from \$400 to \$500, which means a savings of up to \$500 when filing state income tax returns.

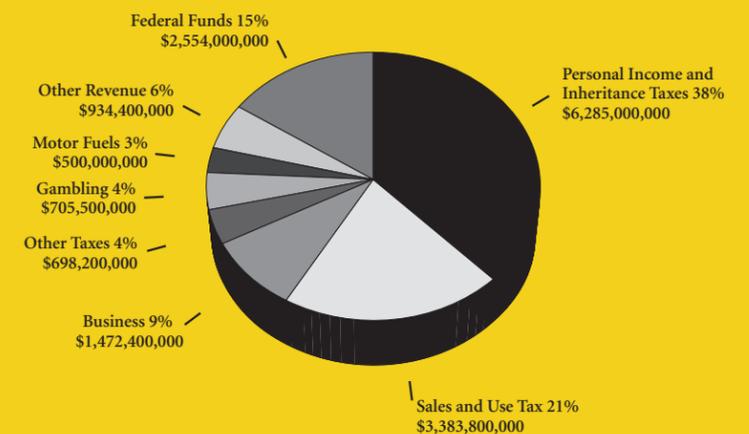


Rep. Rowe, center, discusses legislation with Rep. Robert Heagney of Simsbury and Rep. Themis Klarides of Derby in the state House of Representatives.

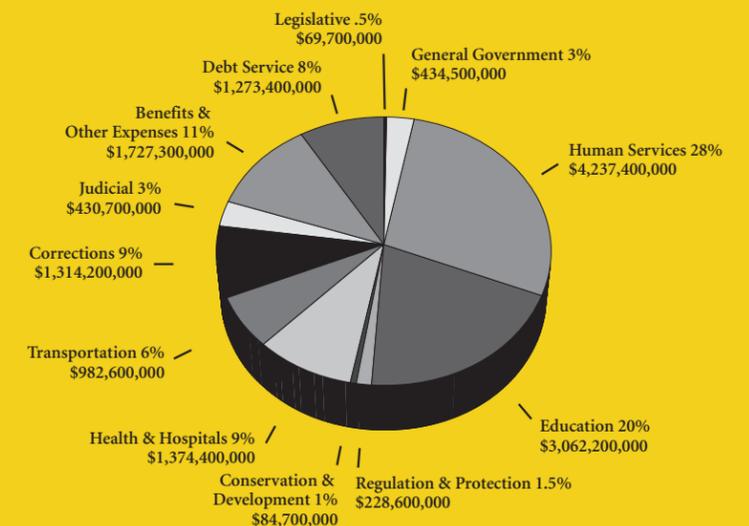
BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.

Missed Opportunities

The legislature failed to reform eminent domain laws that allow the taking of private property for economic development projects. On several occasions over the past year, fellow Republicans and I proposed several measures to limit this governmental power. More state surplus funds also could have been used to pay down state debt, the highest per person debt in the nation.